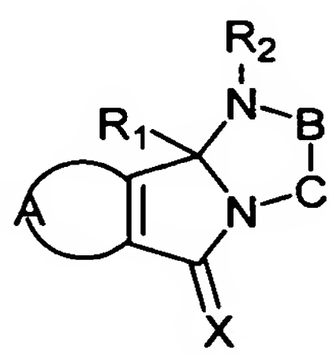
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Use of a compound of formula I



Formula I

its salts, and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof, in the treatment of infections involving viruses of the Pneumovirinae sub-family, wherein

A together with the atoms to which it is attached, forms an optionally substituted aromatic ring;

linker B-C together with the atoms to which they are attached, forms an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring having from 5 to 8 ring atoms;

R_1 is selected from C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{2-12} alkenyl, C_{2-12} alkynyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{4-7}$ cycloalkenyl, $-(CH_2)_n$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_n$ arylC_{1-12} alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$ arylC_{2-12} alkenyl, $-(CH_2)_n$ arylC_{2-12} alkynyl, and $-(CH_2)_n$ heterocyclyl; n is 0-6 and the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl and heterocyclyl groups are optionally substituted;

R_2 is selected from $-CH_2R_3$, $-C(Y)R_3$, $-C(Y)OR_3$, $-C(Y)N(R_4)R_3$, $-C(Y)CH_2N(R_4)R_3$, $-C(Y)CH_2SR_3$ and $-S(O)_wR_5$, where R_3 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{2-12} alkenyl, C_{2-12} alkynyl, $-(CH_2)_mC_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_mC_{4-7}$ cycloalkenyl, $-(CH_2)_m$aryl, $-(CH_2)_m$ arylC_{1-12} alkyl, $-(CH_2)_m$ arylC_{2-12} alkenyl, $-(CH_2)_m$ arylC_{2-12} alkynyl and $-(CH_2)_m$ heterocyclyl; and when R_2 is $-CH_2R_3$, or $-C(Y)R_3$, R_3 may also be selected from $-S-R_5$ and $-O-R_5$; m is 0-6; R_4 is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; R_5 is C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{4-7} cycloalkenyl, benzyl, aryl or heterocyclyl; w is 0,1 or 2, and the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl and heterocyclyl groups are optionally substituted; and

X and Y are independently selected from O, S and NR_6, where R_6 is independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy and lower alkoxy.

2. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein R_2 is not an unsubstituted -C_{1-6} alkyl or unsubstituted -C(O)-C_{1-6} alkyl.

3. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein ring A is an optionally substituted aryl ring.

4. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein ring A is an optionally substituted phenyl ring.

5. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein ring A is an optionally substituted heteroaryl ring.

6. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein ring A together with the atoms to which it is attached, represents an optionally substituted pyridyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrrolyl, furyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl or isoxazolyl ring.

7. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein ring A is an optionally substituted pyridyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl or pyrazinyl ring.

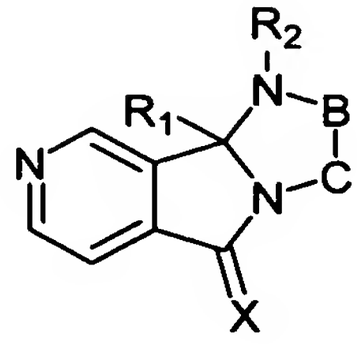
8. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein ring A is optionally substituted pyridyl ring.

9. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein ring A is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halo, -NH_2, NO_2, C_{1-6} alkyl, aryl and heterocyclyl, the aryl and hetercyclyl groups optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-6}alkyl or halo substituted C_{1-6} alkyl and, when ring A contains one or more ring nitrogens, the optional substituents include N-oxides of one or more of the ring nitrogens and pyridinium salts thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein ring A is optionally substituted with a substituent selected from halo, alkyl, C_6H_{5-}, CH_3-C_6H_4-, CF_3-C_6H_4-, pyridyl, NO_2 and when ring A contains one or more ring nitrogens, the optional substituent also include an N-oxide form of a ring nitrogen, and pyridinium salts thereof.

11. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein ring A is not substituted.

12. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 of a compound of the formula IV



Formula IV

its salts, N-oxides and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof, wherein B-C, X, R_1 and R_2 are as defined in claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended) Use as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~, wherein R_2 is selected from $-CH_2R_3$, $-C(Y)R_3$, $-C(Y)OR_3$, $-C(Y)N(R_4)R_3$, $-C(Y)CH_2N(R_4)R_3$, $-C(Y)CH_2SR_3$ and $-S(O)_wR_5$ where R_3 is selected from hydrogen, $-C_{1-12}$alkyl, $-C_{2-12}$alkenyl, $-C_{2-12}$alkynyl, $-(CH_2)_mC_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_mC_{4-7}$ cycloalkenyl, $-(CH_2)_m$aryl, $-(CH_2)_m$arylC_{1-12} alkyl, $-(CH_2)_m$ arylC_{2-12} alkenyl, $-(CH_2)_m$arylC_{2-12} alkynyl, $-(CH_2)_m$heterocyclyl, and when R_2 is $-CH_2R_3$, or $-C(Y)R_3$, R_3 may also be selected from $-S-R_5$ and $-O-R_5$; m is 0-6, R_4 is hydrogen or is C_{1-6} alkyl, R_5 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, C_{4-7} cycloalkenyl, benzyl, aryl and heterocyclyl; w is 0, 1 or 2, and the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl and heterocyclyl groups are optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, halo, halo-C_{1-6} alkyl (including CF_3), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, cyano, NH_2, mono or di(C_{1-6}alkyl) amino, phenyl, benzyl and heterocyclyl.

14. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein R_2 is $-CH_2-R_3$, and R_3 is $-(CH_2)_m$aryl or $-(CH_2)_m$heterocyclyl and m is 0 to 3 and the aryl or heterocyclyl ring is optionally substituted.

15. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein R_2 is $-COR_3$ and R_3 is aryl or heterocyclyl and is optionally substituted.

16. (Currently Amended) Use as defined in claim ~~14 or~~ 15 wherein R_3 is optionally substituted phenyl, naphthyl, furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, H-pyrrolyl, pyrrolinyl, pyrrolidinyl,

oxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, (including 1,2,3 and 1,2,4 oxadiazolyls) thiazolyl, isoxazolyl, furazanyl, isothiazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrazolinyl, pyrazolidinyl, imidazolyl, imidazolinyl, triazolyl (including 1,2,3 and 1,3,4 triazolyls), tetrazolyl, thiadiazolyl (including 1,2,3 and 1,3,4 thiadiazolyls), pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, pyranyl, pyrazinyl, piperidinyl, 1,4-dioxanyl, morpholinyl, 1,4-dithianyl, thiomorpholinyl, piperazinyl, 1,3,5-trithianyl, triazinyl, 1H-thieno[2,3-c]pyrazolyl, thieno[2,3-b]furyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothienyl, benzoxazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzisoxazolyl, benzisothiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, indazolyl, isoquinolinyl, quinolinyl, quinoxalinyl, uridinyl, purinyl, cinnolinyl, phthalazinyl, quinazolinyl, quinoxalinyl, benzotriazinyl, naphthyridinyl or pteridinyl.

17. (Original) Use as defined in claim 16, wherein R_3 is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, halo, halo-C_{1-6} alkyl (including CF_3), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, cyano, NH_2, mono or di(C_{1-6} alkyl) amino, phenyl, benzyl and heterocyclyl.

18. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein R_2 is -CON(H)R_3, and R_3 is -$(CH_2)_m$ aryl or -$(CH_2)_m$ heteroaryl and m is 0 to 2 and the aryl or heteroaryl ring is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halo, lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy and phenyl.

19. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein link-B-C- is an optionally substituted link of the formula -CH_2-$(CH_2)_z$-, where z is 1-4.

20. (Original) Use as defined in claim 19 wherein z is 1 or 2.

21. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein -B-C- is a linker of the formula -CH_2CH_2-.

22. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein linker -B-C- is optionally substituted no more than three optional substituents, the substituents selected from halo, lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, phenyl and benzyl.

23. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein linker -B-C- is not substituted.

24. (Currently Amended) Use as defined in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 21~~ wherein X is oxygen or sulphur.

25. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein R_1 is an optionally substituted aryl or heterocyclyl group.

26. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein R_1 represents phenyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, pyridyl ring or a -C_{1-6} alkylphenyl group, the rings being optional substituted with halo, hydroxy, nitro, -NR'R" (where R' and R" are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl and -C(O)R, where R is C_{1-6} alkyl, phenyl or heterocyclyl), C_{1-12}alkyl, phenyl and -O-R_a, where R_a is – C_{1-12}_alkyl, -C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, -C_{1-12}alkylC_{3-7}cycloalkyl, phenyl or -C_{1-12}alkylphenyl; and the C_{1-12} alkyl, phenyl or Ra group may be optionally substituted with halo, -CN, -NR''R", -CO_2R or -CONR'R", where R, R' and R" are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl.

27. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein R_1 is phenyl optionally substituted with a substituent selected from halo, -C_{1-6}alkyl, -C_{1-6}alkylhalo, -C_{1-6}alkylCN, -OC_{1-6}alkyl, -OC_{1-6} alkylhalo, -OC_{1-6}alkylCO_2NH_2, -OC_{1-6}alkylCN, -OC_{1-6}alkylC_{3-7}cycloalkyl, -OC_{1-6}alkylC_6H_5, -OC_{1-6}alkylOCH3, -OC_6H_5, -OC_6H_4halo, -CF_3, -OCF_3, -NR'R" (where R' and R" are independently selected from hydrogen, -C(O)C_{1-6}alkyl, -C(O)C_6H_5, -C(O)CH=$CHCO_2H$, -C(O)C_{1-6}alkylCO_2H, -C(O)C_{1-6}alkylCO_2CH_3, -C(O)C_{1-6}alkylC_6H_5, -C(O)C_{1-6}alkyl$C_6H_4CH_3$, -C(O)C_{1-6}alkyl$C_6H_4OCH_3$ and-C(O)C_{1-6}alkylC_6H_4halo), -CO_2H, -CO_2C_{1-6}alkyl, -NO_2, -OH, -C_6H_5, -$C_6H_4C_{1-6}$alkyl, -C_6H_4halo and -OC(O)C_{1-6}alkyl.

28. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein R_1 is phenyl substituted with halo, -OC_{1-6}alkyl, -OC_{1-6}alkylhalo, -OC_{1-6}alkylCO_2NH_2, -OC_{1-6}alkylCN, -OC_{1-6}alkylC_{3-7}cycloalkyl, -OC_{1-6}alkylC_6H_5, -OC_{1-6}alkylOCH3.

29. (Original) Use as defined in claim 1 wherein R_1 is 4-chlorophenyl.

30. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of infections involving viruses of the Pneumovirinae sub-family by the inhibition of the virus's fusion processes by the administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I as defined in claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 29,~~ the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof to a patient in need to treatment.

31. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical formulation for the treatment of infections involving viruses of the *Pneumovirinae* sub-family comprising a compound of formula I as defined in claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 29,~~ the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof.

32. (Currently Amended) Use of a compound of formula I as defined in claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 29,~~ the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of infections involving viruses of the Pneumovirinae sub-family.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for treating mammals infected with viruses of the Pneumovirinae sub- family, which comprises administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of one or more of the compounds of formula I as defined in claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 29,~~ the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof.

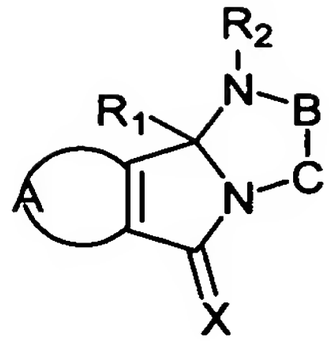
34. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing the infection of mammals with viruses of the Pneumovirinae sub-family, which comprises administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of one or more of the compounds of formula I as defined in claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 29,~~ the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof.

35. (Currently Amended) The ~~use or~~ method ~~according to any one~~ of claim 33 ~~claims 1 to 34~~ in the treatment of infections involving viruses of the Pneumovirus and Metapneumovirus genus.

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~use or~~ method ~~according to any one~~ of claim 33 ~~claims 1 to 34~~ in the treatment of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~use or~~ method ~~according to any one~~ of claim 33 ~~claims 1 to 34~~ in the treatment of human RSV or human metapneumovirus.

38. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I



Formula I

its salts, and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof, wherein

A together with the atoms to which it is attached, represents an optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl or pyrazinyl ring;

B-C is an optionally substituted link of the formula $-CH_2-(CH_2)_z-$, where z is 1-4;

R_1 is selected from C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{2-12} alkenyl, C_{2-12} alkynyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{4-7}$ cycloalkenyl, $-(CH_2)_n$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_n$ arylC_{1-12} alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$ arylC_{2-12} alkenyl, $-(CH_2)_n$ arylC_{2-12} alkynyl, and $-(CH_2)_n$ heterocyclyl; n is 0-6 and the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl and heterocyclyl groups are optionally substituted;

R_2 is selected from $-CH_2R_3$, $-C(Y)R_3$, $-C(Y)OR_3$, $-C(Y)N(R_4)R_3$ and $-S(O)_wR_5$, where R_3 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{2-12} alkenyl, C_{2-12} alkynyl, $-(CH_2)_mC_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_mC_{4-7}$ cycloalkenyl, $-(CH_2)_m$aryl, $-(CH_2)_m$ arylC_{1-12} alkyl, $-(CH_2)_m$ arylC_{2-12} alkenyl, $-(CH_2)_m$ arylC_{2-12} alkynyl and $-(CH_2)_m$ heterocyclyl; and when R_2 is $-CH_2R_3$, or $-C(Y)R_3$, R_3 may also be selected from $-S-R_5$ and $-O-R_5$; m is 0-6; R_4 is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; R_5 is C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{4-7} cycloalkenyl, benzyl, aryl or heterocyclyl; w is 0,1 or 2, and the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl and heterocyclyl groups are optionally substituted; and

X and Y are independently selected from O, S and NR_6, where R_6 is independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy and lower alkoxy;

with the provisos that when A is phenyl and R_1 is 4-chlorophenyl or unsubstituted phenyl

(i) R_3 is not unsubstituted cyclopropyl, halomethyl, unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl with only halo, $-CH_3$ and/or $-OCH_3$ substituents when R_2 is COR_3;

(ii) R_3 is not unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl with only halo, $-CH_3$, $-OCH_3$ and/or $-C(O)OCH_2CH_3$ substituents when R_2 is $C(O)NHR_3$;

(iii) R_3 is not unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl with only halo, $-CH_3$, $-OCH_3$ and/or $-C(O)OCH_2CH_3$ substituents when R_2 is $C(S)NHR_3$;

and with the provisos

(iv) when A is phenyl and R_2 is CH_2R_3, R_3 is not hydrogen, unsubstituted C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{1-6} alkyl only substituted with NH_2, mono or di C_{1-6} alkyl amino groups;

(v) when A is phenyl and R_1 is 4-methoxyphenyl, R_2 is not CHO;

(vi) when A is phenyl and R_1 is phenyl optionally substituted with only halo, C_{1-6} alkyl and / or C_{1-6} alkoxy and R_2 is COR_3, R_3 is not methylene substituted with NH_2, mono or di C_{1-6} alkyl amino, N-piperidinyl or N-morpholinyl;

(vii) when A is phenyl and R_1 is 3-CH_3,_4-$CH_3CH_2CH_2NHC(O)CH_2O$-phenyl, R_2 is not -$S(O)_2CH_2SO_2CH_3$, -CHO, -$COCH_2CH_3$, -CH_2CH_2OH, -$CH_2CH_2OCH_3$, -$CH_2CO_2C(CH_3)_3$ or C_{1-6} alkyl;

(viii) when A is pyridyl and R_1 is 3-CH_3,_4-$CH_3CH_2CH_2NHC(O)CH_2O$-phenyl, R2 is not CH_3.

39. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, with the proviso that when ring A is phenyl

(i) R_3 is not hydrogen or optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl when R_2 is -CH_2R_3 or -COR_3;

(ii) R_3 is not $(CH_2)_m$heterocyclyl where m is 1 or 2 and the heterocyclyl ring is piperidinyl, morpholinyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, thiomorpholinyl when R_2 is -COR_3 and R1 is 4-chlorophenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl or unsubstituted phenyl;

(iii) R_2 is not benzyl;

and with the proviso

(iv) R_2 is not -CH_3 when A is pyridyl.

40. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, when A is phenyl and R_2 is -CH_2R_3 or -$C(O)R_3$, and R_3 is selected from C_{7-12} alkyl, C_{2-12} alkenyl, C_{2-12} alkynyl, -$(CH_2)_mC_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, -$(CH_2)_mC_{4-7}$ cycloalkenyl, -$(CH_2)_m$ aryl, -$(CH_2)_m$ arylC_{1-12} alkyl, -$(CH_2)_m$ arylC_{2-12} alkenyl, -$(CH_2)_m$ arylC_{2-12} alkynyl, -$(CH_2)_m$ heterocyclyl, -SR_5 and -OR_5.

41. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein ring A is optionally substituted with one or more

substituents independently selected from halo, $-NH_2$, NO_2, C_{1-6} alkyl, aryl and heterocyclyl, the aryl and hetercyclyl groups optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-6}alkyl or halo substituted C_{1-6} alkyl and, when ring A contains one or more ring nitrogens, the optional substituents include N-oxides of one or more of the ring nitrogens.

42. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein ring A is optionally substituted with a substituent selected from halo, alkyl, C_6H_5- CH_3-C_6H_4-, CF_3-C_6H_4-, pyridyl, NO_2 and when ring A contains one or more ring nitrogens, the optional substituent also include an N-oxide form of a ring nitrogen.

43. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein ring A is not substituted.

44. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein R_2 is selected from $-CH_2R_3$, $-C(Y)R_3$, $-C(Y)OR_3$, $-C(Y)N(R_4)R_3$, $-C(Y)CH_2N(R_4)R_3$, $-C(Y)CH_2SR_3$ and $-S(O)_wR_5$ where R_3 is selected from hydrogen, $-C_{1-12}$alkyl, $-C_{2-12}$alkenyl, $-C_{2-12}$alkynyl, $-(CH_2)_mC_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_mC_{4-7}$ cycloalkenyl, $-(CH_2)_m$aryl, $-(CH_2)_m$arylC_{1-12} alkyl, $-(CH_2)_m$ arylC_{2-12} alkenyl, $-(CH_2)_m$arylC_{2-12} alkynyl, $-(CH_2)_m$heterocyclyl, and when R_2 is $-CH_2R_3$, or $-C(Y)R_3$, R_3 may also be selected from $-S-R_5$ and $-O-R_5$; m is 0-6, R_4 is hydrogen or is C_{1-6} alkyl, R_5 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, C_{4-7} cycloalkenyl, benzyl, aryl and heterocyclyl; w is 0, 1 or 2, and the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl and heterocyclyl groups are optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, halo, halo-C_{1-6} alkyl (including CF_3), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, cyano, NH_2, mono or di(C_{1-6}alkyl) amino, phenyl, benzyl and heterocyclyl, the substituents being optionally substituted.

45. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein R_2 is $-CH_2-R_3$, and R_3 is $-(CH_2)_m$aryl or $-(CH_2)_m$heterocyclyl and m is 0 to 3 and the aryl or heterocyclyl ring is optionally substituted.

46. (Original) The compound as defined in claim38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein R_2 is $-COR_3$ and R_3 is aryl or heterocyclyl and is optionally substituted.

47. (Currently Amended) The compound as defined in claim ~~45 or~~ 46, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein R3 is optionally substituted phenyl, naphthyl, furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, H-pyrrolyl, pyrrolinyl, pyrrolidinyl, oxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, (including 1, 2, 3 and 1,2, 4 oxadiazolyls) thiazolyl, isoxazolyl, furazanyl, isothiazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrazolinyl, pyrazolidinyl, imidazolyl, imidazolinyl, triazolyl (including 1,2,3 and 1,3,4 triazolyls), tetrazolyl, thiadiazolyl (including 1,2,3 and 1,3,4 thiadiazolyls), pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, pyranyl, pyrazinyl, piperidinyl, 1,4-dioxanyl, morpholinyl, 1,4-dithianyl, thiomorpholinyl, piperazinyl, 1,3,5-trithianyl, triazinyl, 1H-thieno[2,3-c]pyrazolyl, thieno[2,3-b]furyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, benzofuranyl, benzothienyl, benzoxazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzisoxazolyl, benzisothiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, indazolyl, isoquinolinyl, quinolinyl, quinoxalinyl, uridinyl, purinyl, cinnolinyl, phthalazinyl, quinazolinyl, quinoxalinyl, benzotriazinyl, naphthyridinyl or pteridinyl.

48. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein R_3 is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, halo, halo-C_{1-6} alkyl (including CF_3), hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, cyano, NH_2, mono or di(C_{1-6} alkyl) amino, phenyl, benzyl and heterocyclyl, the phenyl, benzyl and heterocyclyl groups being optionally substituted.

49. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein R_2 is -CON(H)R_3, and R_3 is -$(CH_2)_m$ aryl or -$(CH_2)_m$ heteroaryl and m is 0 to 2 and the aryl or heteroaryl ring is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halo, lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy and phenyl.

50. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein z is 1 or 2.

51. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein -B-C- is a linker of the formula -CH_2CH_2-.

52. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein the linker -B-C- is optionally substituted no more than

three optional substituents, the substituents selected from halo, lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, phenyl and benzyl.

53. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein the linker -B-C- is not substituted.

54. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein X is oxygen or sulphur.

55. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein X is oxygen.

56. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein R_1 is an optionally substituted aryl or heterocyclyl group.

57. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein R_1 represents phenyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, pyridyl ring or a -C_{1-6} alkylphenyl group, the rings being optional substituted with halo, hydroxy, nitro, -NR'R" (where R' and R" are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl and -C(O)R, where R is C_{1-6} alkyl, phenyl or heterocyclyl), C_{1-12}alkyl, phenyl and -O-R_a, where R_a is –C_{1-12}alkyl, -C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, -C_{1-12}alkylC_{3-7}cycloalkyl, phenyl or -C_{1-12}alkylphenyl; and the C_{1-12}alkyl, phenyl or Ra group may be optionally substituted with halo, -CN, -NR''R", -CO_2R or -CONR'R", where R, R' and R" are independently selected from hydrogen or lower alkyl.

58. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein R_1 is phenyl optionally substituted with a substituent selected from halo, -C_{1-6}alkyl, -C_{1-6}alkylhalo, -C_{1-6}alkylCN, -OC_{1-6}_alkyl, -OC_{1-6}alkylhalo, -OC_{1-6} alkylCO_2NH_2, -OC_{1-6}alkylCN, -OC_{1-6}alkylC_{3-7}cycloalkyl, -OC_{1-6}alkylC_6H_5, -OC_{1-6}alkylOCH3, -OC_6H_5, -OC_6H_4halo, -CF_3, -OCF_3, -NR'R" (where R' and R" are independently selected from hydrogen, -C(O)C_{1-6}alkyl, -C(O)C_6H_5, -C(O)CH=CHCO_2H, -C(O)C_{1-6}alkylCO_2H, -C(O)C_{1-6}alkylCO_2CH_3, -C(O)C_{1-6}alkylC_6H_5, -C(O)C_{1-6}alkyl$C_6H_4CH_3$, -C(O)C_{1-6}alkyl$C_6H_4OCH_3$ and-C(O)C_{1-6}_alkylC_6H_4halo), -CO_2H, -CO_2C_{1-6}alkyl, -NO_2, -OH, -C_6H_5, -$C_6H_4C_{1-6}$alkyl, -C_6H_4halo and -OC(O)C_{1-6}alkyl.

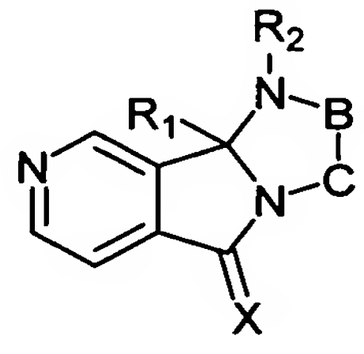
59. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein R_1 is halo-phenyl.

60. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, wherein R_1 is 4-chlorophenyl.

61. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof, wherein A is an optionally substituted phenyl ring.

62. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof, wherein R_2 is C(O)-R_3 and R_3 is -$(CH_2)_m$-aryl or $(CH_2)_m$-heteroaryl, where m is 0 to 6, and the aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally substituted.

63. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38 of the formula IV



Formula IV

Wherein R_1, R_2, X and -B-C- are as defined in claim 38, and the N-oxide form and pyridium salt thereof.

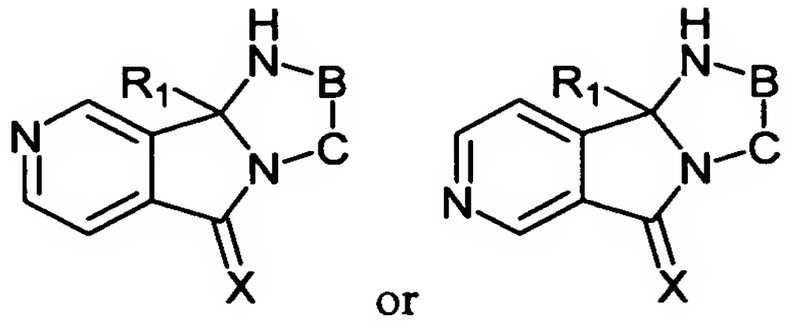
64. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 63, and the N-oxide form and pyridium salt thereof, wherein R_2 is C(O)R_3 and R_3 is -$(CH_2)_m$-aryl or $(CH_2)_m$-heteroaryl, where m is 0 to 6, and the aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally substituted.

65. (Original) A compound disclosed in table 2 or 3.

66. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical formulation for the treatment of infections involving viruses of *Pneumovirinae* sub-family comprising a compound of formula I as defined in claim 38 ~~any one of claims 38 to 65~~, the salt or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative

thereof.

67. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula



or

and salts thereof, wherein

the pyridyl ring is optionally substituted;

B-C is an optionally substituted linker of theformula $-CH_2-(CH_2)_z-$, where z is 1-4;

R_1 is selected from C_{1-12} alkyl, C_{2-12} alkenyl, C_{2-12} alkynyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_nC_{4-7}$ cycloalkenyl, $-(CH_2)_n$ aryl, $-(CH_2)_n$ arylC_{1-12} alkyl, $-(CH_2)_n$ arylC_{2-12} alkenyl, $-(CH_2)_n$ arylC_{2-12} alkynyl, and $-(CH_2)_n$ heterocyclyl; n is 0-6 and the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl and heterocyclyl groups are optionally substituted; and

X is selected from O, S and NR_6, where R_6 is independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy and lower alkoxy;

with the proviso that when -B-C- is $-CH_2CH(CH(CH_3)_2)-$, R_1 is not 3-CH_3,4-$CH_3CH_2CH_2NHC(O)CH_2O$-phenyl-.

68. (Original) The compound as defined in claims 67 and salts thereof, wherein the pyridyl ring is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halo, $-NH_2$, $-NO_2$, $-C_{1-6}$alkyl, aryl and heterocyclyl, the aryl and hetercyclyl groups optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-6}alkyl or halo substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, and the ring nitrogen of the pyridyl ring may optionally be an N-oxide.

69. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 67 and salts thereof, wherein the pyridyl ring is optionally substituted with a substituent selected from halo, alkyl, C_6H_5-, $CH_3-C_6H_4-$, $CF_3-C_6H_4-$, pyridyl and NO_2, and the ring nitrogen of the pyridyl ring may optionally be an N-oxide.

70. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 67 and salts thereof, wherein the

pyridyl ring is not substituted.

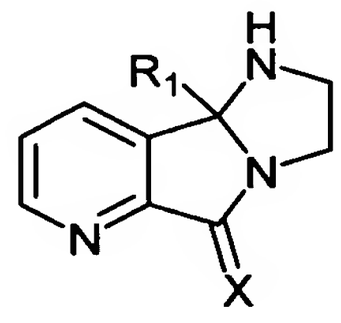
71. (Currently Amended) The compound as defined in claim 67 and salts thereof, wherein ~~the linker B-C is as defined in any one of claims 21 to 23~~ -B-C- is a linker of the formula -CH_2CH_2-.

72. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 67 and salts thereof, wherein X is oxygen or sulphur.

73. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 67 and salts thereof, wherein X is oxygen.

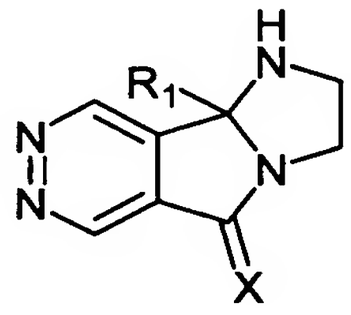
74. (Currently Amended) The compound as defined in claim 67 and salts thereof, wherein R_1 is ~~as defined in any one of claims 25 to 29~~ an optionally substituted aryl or heterocyclyl group.

75. (Original) A compound of formula



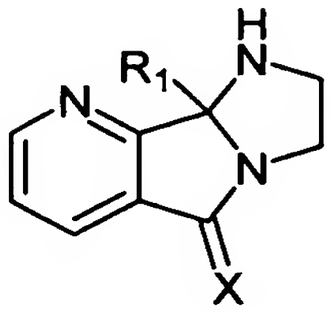
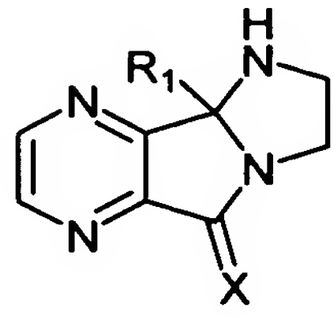
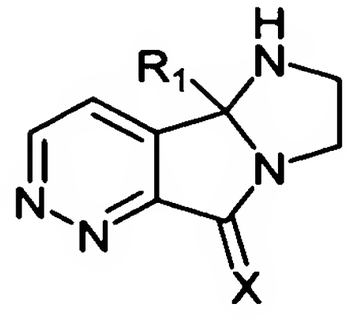
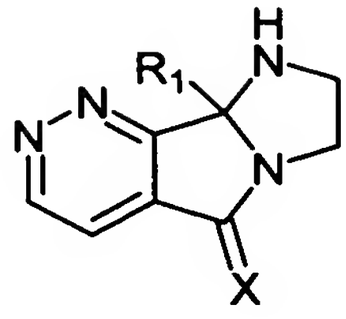
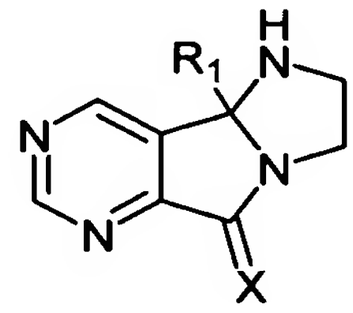
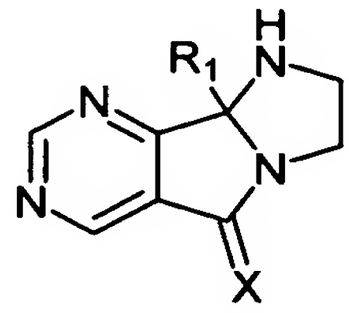
and salts thereof, wherein the pyridyl ring is optionally substituted and R_1 and X are as defined in Claim 67, with the proviso that R_1 is not 4-chlorophenyl.

76. (Original) A compound of the formula



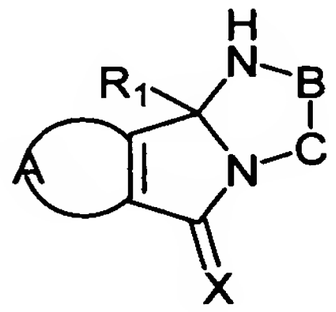
and salts thereof, wherein the fused pyridazinyl ring is optionally substituted and R_1 and X are as defined in Claim 67, with the proviso that R_1 is not phenyl, 4-chlorophenyl or 4-methoxyphenyl.

77. (Currently Amended) A compound of any one of the formulae

and salts thereof, wherein the fused pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl or pyrimidinyl ring is optionally substituted and R_1 and X are as defined in Claim 67.

78. (Original) Use of a compound of formula III,



Formula III

and salts thereof, wherein R_1, ring A, -B-C- and X are as defined in claim 38, as an intermediate for the production of a compound of formula I as defined in claim 38.

79. (Original) A method of separating the enantiomers of a compound of formula III by forming diastereomeric salts of the compounds using an enantiomerically enriched chiral hydrogen phosphate.

80. (Original) A method of separating the enantiomers of a compound as defined in claim 67 by forming diastereomeric salts of the compound using an enantiomerically enriched chiral hydrogen phosphate.

81. (Original) The compound as defined in claim 38 in a substantially pure optically active form.

82. (Currently Amended) The compound as defined in claim 67~~, 75, 76 or 77~~ in a substantially pure optically active form.

83. (New) The compound as defined in claim 75 in a substantially pure optically active form.

84. (New) The compound as defined in claim 76 in a substantially pure optically active form.

85. (New) The compound as defined in claim 77 in a substantially pure optically active form.